

**PSC SETS HEARING SCHEDULE IN EARNINGS CASES INVOLVING
THE SENECA AND GOODMAN TELEPHONE COMPANIES**

Jefferson City (July 15, 1998)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold a hearing on November 5, 1998, in earnings investigation cases involving the Seneca Telephone Company and the Goodman Telephone Company.

Previously, the PSC Staff, the Seneca Telephone Company and the Goodman Telephone Company filed agreements with the Commission reducing the annual telephone revenues of the two companies. The November 5, 1998, hearing has been ordered to address issues raised by intervening parties in the case.

The hearing will be held in the Commission's hearing room which is located on the fifth floor of the Truman State Office Building in Jefferson City. Any person wishing to attend the hearing who has special needs as addressed by the Americans With Disabilities Act should contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at least 10 days prior to the hearing at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline--1-800-392-4211, or TDD Hotline--1-800-829-7541.

On February 27, 1998, the PSC Staff, the Seneca Telephone Company and the Goodman Telephone Company filed agreements with the Commission. Those agreements would reduce the annual telephone revenues of the Seneca Telephone Company and the Goodman Telephone Company.

Under the agreements, the annual telephone revenues of the Seneca Telephone Company would be reduced by approximately \$446,500. The annual telephone revenues of the Goodman Telephone Company would be reduced by approximately \$269,500.

The agreements would result in lower access charges being paid to the local telephone companies by long-distance carriers accessing the network to complete a call.

In addition, the agreements call for each telephone company to eliminate the charge associated with providing touch tone service (under the agreements that service would be provided at no cost to the

(More)

customer). Goodman Telephone Company customers pay \$1.25 a month for touch tone service. Residential customers of the Seneca Telephone Company pay \$1.00 a month for touch tone service while business customers pay \$1.50 a month for that service.

An expanded calling scope is also part of the Seneca Telephone Company and Goodman Telephone Company agreements. Under the agreements, all calls between the Goodman and Seneca exchanges would be toll-free. Those calls are currently toll calls for customers.

Under the agreements, each local telephone company would be allowed to charge customers for directory assistance. Each company would be allowed to charge 45 cents per call with a two free call allowance each month for each customer. Currently there is no charge for that service.

The agreements filed by the PSC Staff, the Goodman Telephone Company and the Seneca Telephone Company were the result of extensive negotiations conducted by the above parties. Negotiations began shortly after the PSC Staff concluded its investigation into the books and records of each of the telephone companies.

The Seneca Telephone Company serves approximately 2,845 telephone customers in Newton and McDonald Counties. The Goodman Telephone Company serves approximately 1,730 telephone customers in McDonald County.

---0---